

Links to Learn, Say How You Feel, or Get Active

Community website [www.westhillcommunity.com](http://www.westhillcommunity.com)  
Consultant input email [westhill@berkandassociates.com](mailto:westhill@berkandassociates.com)  
King County Annexation site [www.metrokc.gov/exec/annexinit](http://www.metrokc.gov/exec/annexinit)  
King County Councilmember [www.metrokc.gov/pelz](http://www.metrokc.gov/pelz)  
Dwight Pelz

West Hill Residents speak out at the May Public Meeting

“I have an expectation that property values would be enhanced more via annexation to Seattle versus Renton.”

“The information provided is excellent. Continue to provide opportunities for West Hill residents to come together. Hopefully a consensus will develop.”

“Skyway, Bryn Mawr, Lakeridge, and Earlington are distinct and becoming part of Renton is the the best way to maintain these neighborhoods.”

“I like the lack of city influence, I prefer the King County Library System to either Renton or Seattle. Don’t want side-walks”

“Don’t want to live in Renton, enjoy having Seattle address. Don’t mind more taxes in order to maintain current address.”



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5TH DISTRICT NEWS

Dwight Pelz, Councilmember  
Metropolitan King County Council, District Five  
Room 1200, King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104-3272

West Hill Community Update



5TH DISTRICT NEWS

KING COUNTY COUNCILMEMBER DWIGHT PELZ

WEST HILL UPDATE

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Over the last nine years I have been proud to represent the West Hill community on the King County Council. Now I am moving on to a new challenge, so you will have new representation next January.

With the King County Council shrinking and King County pushing to annex urban unincorporated pockets like the West Hill area, it is important for all residents to involve themselves in the governance issue and how it affects the future of this community.

Hopefully, this newsletter will give you some useful tools to learn about the issues involved and become active in shaping the future of your neighborhood.

Sincerely,

*[Handwritten signature of Dwight Pelz]*

Dwight Pelz



King County

# West Hill Governance Task Force Timeline and History

The West Hill Governance Task Force was formed in the spring of 2004 as a joint project of the West Hill Unincorporated Area Council, the Greater Skyway Business Association, and the South Lake Improvement Committee. Each group nominated members to serve on the task force and at large members were chosen as well. The group includes major business owners, citizens from neighborhoods throughout the Hill, and important stakeholders like the water and sewer district and the fire district.

Although the members of the task force have many differing opinions on the future of the West Hill area, they all share a commitment to working on a process which involves and empowers West Hill residents to have a say in their future. The Task Force has been meeting monthly throughout the last year. In March, they sponsored four well-attended neighborhood meetings around the Hill to gather information on what services were important to residents. They used this information to better plan the open house toward the needs and interests of people on the Hill.

The plan for the near future is to develop a report to the community which includes recommendations for the future and a summary on

input to date. After that report is released the sponsoring organizations and the Task Force will examine what future role it will play.

# Summary of May Community Meeting

Over 200 people attended the West Hill Governance Task Force Community Open House on Wednesday, May 25th. Those who attended were able to view displays which gave them useful information about staying unincorporated, becoming a city, or annexing to Seattle or Renton. Over light snacks they had a chance to sit down with task force members and neighbors to share concerns and opinions about future governance options for the West Hill area.

taken at the meeting and comment forms over the next month to better give them an idea of what the major issues and challenges for the West Hill area are. If you were unable to attend the Open House meeting, but would like to give input, forms are available at the Skyway Library, the Fire Training Center, or at the Skyway Water and Sewer District offices. You can also give input to the email addresses [westhill@berkandassociates.com](mailto:westhill@berkandassociates.com) and the web site [www.westhillcommunity.com](http://www.westhillcommunity.com)

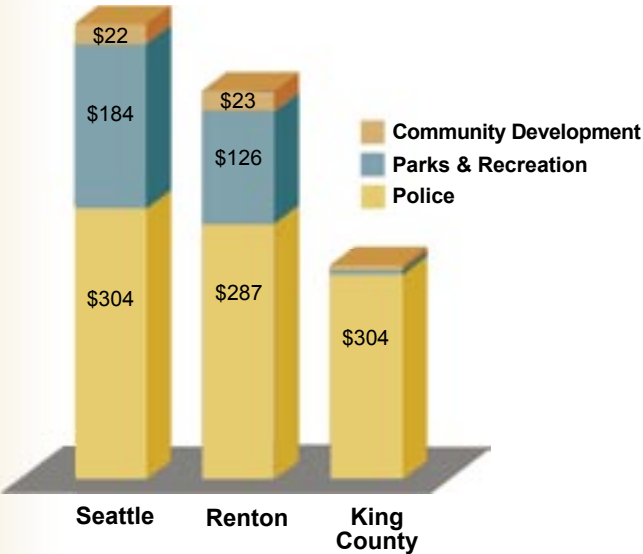
West Hill residents shared their concerns about future taxes, what might happen to property values, and the levels of services that different options might offer. Citizens were very concerned about keeping good library service, police and fire service, and questions about their utilities were mentioned by many. Residents also were interested in if the West Hill area would continue to be served by the Renton School District.

The Task Force and consultants will be reviewing the results of surveys



Community members gather to discuss the future of West Hill.

Expenditures per capita for selected local service



## Annual Taxes Paid by Typical Homeowner

	Stay Unincorporated	Annex to Seattle	Annex to Renton
Property Tax*	\$2,860	\$2,710	\$2,680
Utility Taxes	\$60	\$288	\$236
Cable Franchise Fee	\$24	\$12	\$24
Monorail Tax**	--	\$238	--
TOTAL	\$2,944	\$3,248	\$2,940
Difference vs. Unincorporated		Increase \$304	Decrease (\$4)

	Stay Unincorporated	Annex to Seattle	Annex to Renton
Surface Water Fee	\$91	\$122	\$65
Water & Sewer Charges	\$901	\$923	\$901
Solid Waste Collection Charges	\$436	\$248	\$161
TOTAL	\$1,428	\$1,292	\$1,127
Difference vs. Unincorporated		Decrease (\$136)	Decrease (\$274)

Grand Total	\$4,372	\$4,540	\$4,067
Total Cost Difference		Increase \$167	Decrease (\$279)

\*House assessed at \$225,000  
\*\*Assumes total vehicle value of \$17,000